Production stock and consumption of natural rubber

2991. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the production, stock and consumption of natural rubber;

(b) whether there has been any short fall in the production and consumption and also in the stock level;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to increase the stock of natural rubber?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVAN): (a) The production, consumption and stock of natural rubber is as below:

(Tonnes approximate)

Year	Production	Consumption	Stock
2004-05	749,665	755,405	106,200

(b) to (d) The Production of rubber has been increasing every year. Changes in the stock position depends on the demand and supply position from time to time.

Improved offers in sectors where initial offers were made in 2003

2992. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since made imporved offers in sectors where initial offers were made in 2003, as recommended by the Cabinet Committee on WTO (World Trade Organisation);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether similar revised offers have also been received by India;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) by when the revised offers made and received are likely to be finalised; and

(f) the extent to which India's international trade would improve as a consequence thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. India has filed its Revised Offer at the WTO on 12th August 2005, including improved offers in sectors where initial offers were made. Further improvements have been made to the initial offers in sectors such as Accounting and Book-keeping services, Engineering Services, Computer and related Services, Telecommunication Services, Construction and related Engineering Services, Financial Services, Tourism and Travel Services and Maritime Transport Services.

(c) to (e) Revised Offers are received by the members of the WTO through the WTO Secretariat. So far about 30 Member countries have filed their Revised Offers at the WTO. Submission of Offers is an ongoing process in the WTO under the Request-Offer approach followed in the negotiations on Trade in Services and will be finalised only when all Member countries reach an agreement on the commitments to be undertaken. All Revised Offers are conditional on the quality of the Offers of other member countries and can be withdrawn by any Member if it is not satisfied what the Offers made by its trading partners.

(f) India's core competence in services lies in export of services through cross border supply (Mode 1) and Movement of Natural Persons (Mode 4). Liberal commitments from our trading partners in these modes will provide us more effective market access in sectors of interest to us thereby enhancing our export of services through these modes. India is also likely to receive Foreign Direct Investment, particularly in infrastructural sectors, which will enhance our economic growth.

Import of wheat

2993. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether United State Department of Agricultural has estimated that India may have to import one million tonnes of wheat; and

(b) if so, the details and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI E. V. K. S. ELANGOVAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Food and Agricultural Services (FAS) of US Department of Agriculture in